

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 002644

63

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 002644

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: NATO MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE

REF: USNATO 0004

1. WHILE WE SEE MISSION TEXT AS MORE USEFUL INITIAL
OUTLINE, WE BELIEVE THAT EITHER TEXT OR AN AMALGAMATION
OF BOTH COULD PROVE SUITABLE, SINCE MOST IF NOT ALL OF
THE NECESSARY ELEMENTS HAVE BEEN RAISED IN THE TWO
OUTLINES.

2. HOWEVER, WE SEE IT AS ESSENTIAL THAT SOME FORM OF
UNCLASSIFIED TEXT OF A LONG-RANGE DEFENSE CONCEPT FOR
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PAGE 02 STATE 002644

NATO, CONSISTENT WITH THE OTTAWA DECLARATION ON ATLANTIC

RELATIONS, EMERGE FROM THE DRC/DPC WORK ON MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE, SO THAT MINISTERS CAN MAKE THE CONCEPT AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC, JUST AS THE BASIC CONCEPTS OF THE AD-70 STUDY WERE RELEASED IN UNCLASSIFIED FORM. THIS RESULT COULD BE FACILITATED IF THE LONG-RANGE CONCEPT IS TREATED AS A PREAMBLE TO THE PLANNING GUIDANCE FOR 1977-1982. IN THIS CASE THE MAIN HEADINGS OF THE OVERALL DOCUMENT COULD BE:

INTRODUCTION

LONG-RANGE DEFENSE CONCEPT

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS FOR 1977-1982

DIRECTIVE (INCLUDING CONSIDERATION OF IMPLEMENTING AND REVIEW MECHANISM)

3. WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO INCLUSION OF MATERIAL ON MBFR, PARTICULARLY IF MATERIAL MIGHT STRENGTHEN RESOLVE OF NATO COUNTRIES IN MAINTAINING PRESENT STRENGTH IN NGA PENDING RESULTS OF MBFR NEGOTIATIONS.

4. FYI. FOLLOWING STRONG AND SUCCESSFUL INITIAL US PUSH ON MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE, WE NOW BELIEVE THAT US SHOULD ADOPT AN ATTITUDE WHICH WILL ENCOURAGE ALLIES TO COME FORWARD AND HELP SHAPE ITS CONTENT ALONG LINES AGREED BY MINISTERS. OUR PROCEDURAL OBJECTIVE NOW SHOULD BE TO ENSURE THAT THE PRODUCT, WHEN IT IS PRESENTED TO MINISTERS AND RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC, IS FULLY FELT TO REPRESENT THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THIRTEEN ALLIES RATHER THAN OF THE US ALONE. END FYI.

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